

John F. Kennedy High School La Palma, California



Seeking Your Comments on the Plan to Clean Up Contaminated Soil at a Proposed New Building Site

*DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
environmental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



INTRODUCTION

Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) conducted an environmental investigation at the sites where new buildings are proposed at the John F. Kennedy High School (JFK) located at 8281 Walker Street in La Palma, California.

Elevated levels of arsenic were detected in the soil at one of the seven proposed building locations at JFK. Based on those results, AUHSD prepared a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) proposing to remove approximately 70 to 200 cubic yards (7 to 17 truckloads) of soil. **You are invited to review and comment on this Draft RAW.**

AUHSD is responsible for the site cleanup. Our state agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), will provide oversight to ensure that the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the environment.

Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a **draft Notice of Exemption (NOE)** for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the project's short duration, and the controlled manner in which the arsenic-containing soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks, and transported off-site for disposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

March 22, 2004 – April 21, 2004

The purpose of the public comment period is to give you the opportunity to review and provide us with your comments and questions on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the John F. Kennedy High School. We invite you to send your comments to:

Ms. Stephanie Feliciano
DTSC Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substances
Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California
(714) 484-5433
Sfelicia@dtsc.ca.gov

IN THIS FACT SHEET YOU WILL FIND:

- What was found
- How it got there
- How you can tell us what you think
- Why and how the site will be cleaned up
- Cleanup options
- Who to contact for more information

WHAT WAS FOUND

The AUHSD conducted a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (environmental investigation) at the seven proposed building locations at JFK. The focus of the investigation was to determine if there were impacts from chemicals (such as pesticides, herbicides, and metals) related to past agricultural practices at the property before the high school was constructed.

During the environmental investigation, soil was tested at each campus location where new buildings are proposed. At one location, the proposed east annex to the existing science classroom building (depicted as Area C-A2 on the enclosed campus map), surface soil samples had concentrations of arsenic above naturally-occurring background levels for the surrounding area.

As a result of the investigation and the arsenic contamination, soil removal is being proposed at the site of the proposed classroom annex. This soil removal will eliminate any potential long-term health risks posed by the arsenic in the soil. Once the affected soil is removed, the potential risk will be reduced to levels that are safe for students and school staff. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that the removal is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE AND WHY A CLEANUP IS NEEDED

It is suspected that the arsenic came from the application of products used to kill weeds or insects on the property, perhaps before the school was constructed in 1964.

The arsenic contaminated soil must be removed PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION due to the potential health effects from long term exposure. Currently, the arsenic in the soil in this area does not pose an immediate risk to the students and the staff at the school

site because the area is covered with plastic, fenced and secured. After the contaminated soil is removed, there will not be a potential health risk.

CLEANUP OPTIONS

Several cleanup options were evaluated. Protection of human health and the environment was the most important factor considered. The following options were reviewed:

Option 1 – No Action

Option 2 – On-site Containment (Capping)

Option 3 – Excavation and Disposal
(Preferred Option)

Any cleanup plan must protect public health and the environment, have a reasonable cost, and information about the cleanup must be shared with the community. The best plan recommended in the draft RAW that meets these goals is Option 3. The preferred cleanup option was selected because it is permanent, effective, feasible, protects human health and has a reasonable cost.

HOW AUHSD PLANS TO CLEAN IT UP

The proposed RAW is to remove approximately 70 to 200 cubic yards (7 to 17 truckloads) of contaminated soil from the future building site. The top one to three feet of soil will be removed and transported to a state-approved disposal facility. Once the soil is removed, clean soil will be used to fill the excavated area.

To ensure that there is no risk to students and staff from the cleanup activities, AUHSD will conduct the soil removal work on weekends between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The cleanup will require one weekend to complete excavation activities and a second weekend to fill the excavated area and transport the soil to an approved disposal facility.

There may be a one to two-week period between excavation and the backfilling/disposal activities to allow for analysis of soil samples and acceptance of the soil at the disposal facility. During this interim period, the excavated soil will be secured in covered containers, and the excavation will be fenced to prevent unauthorized entry. The depth of the excavation that will remain open during this short period will be three to four feet. If the Draft Removal Action Workplan is approved, the removal activities tentatively are scheduled to begin in May 2004.

SAFETY AND DUST CONTROLS DURING CLEANUP

If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the earth-moving equipment can be expected during the removal. An effort will be made to keep the noise to a minimum. No traffic delays are expected while the trucks are driving to and from the school site. The trucks will generally leave the high school via Walker Street, travel north to Orangethorpe Avenue, and then take the 91 Freeway to the disposal site. AUHSD will take the following steps to ensure safety and minimize the impact of dust generated during the cleanup:

- The site will be fenced and secured.
- Caution tape and construction cones will be placed around the excavation and staging areas.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the site.
- Work areas will be sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust.
- Water mist will be sprayed on soil loaded into the transport trucks.
- Trucks will be covered with a tarp as they leave the site to prevent soil from falling off.
- The air will be monitored on-site to ensure the amount of dust stays at a safe level.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft RAW during the Public Comment Period, which begins on March 22, 2004, and ends on April 21, 2004. Please send your questions and thoughts about the proposed cleanup option to: Ms. Stephanie Feliciano, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630, phone no. (714) 484-5433. Comments must be postmarked no later than April 21, 2004.

WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (TECHNICAL REPORTS)

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the Draft Removal Action Workplan for John F. Kennedy High School. This workplan and the other documents about the investigation are available for your review at the following locations:

Anaheim Union High School District
501 Crescent Way
Anaheim, CA 92803
Contact: Becky Scott
Phone: (714) 999-2188
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School
8281 Walker Street
La Palma, CA 90623
Contact: David Cowen
Phone: (714) 220-4101
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Julie Johnson
Phone: (714) 484-5337
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

La Palma Public Library
7842 Walker Street
La Palma, CA 90623
Contact: Branch Manager
Phone: (714) 523-8585
Hours: Monday–Friday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

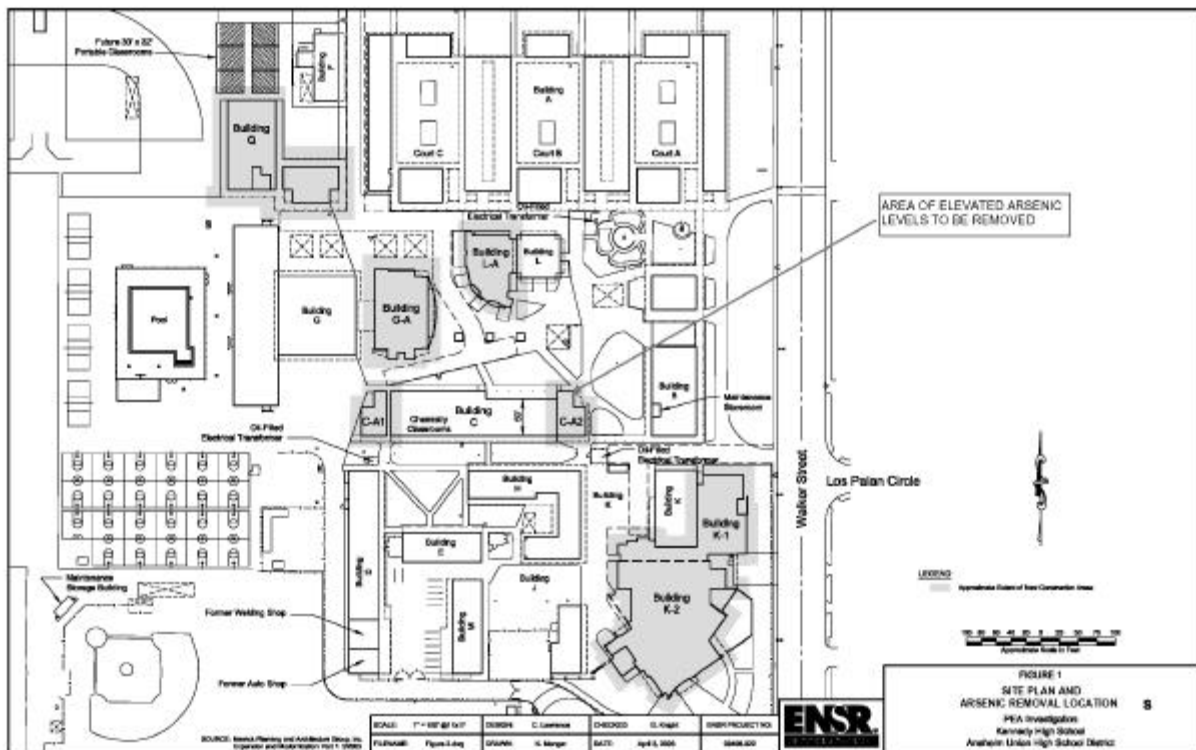
If you have any questions about the cleanup project or activities, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917; or Ms. Stephanie Feliciano, DTSC Project Manager, at (714) 484-5433. For media inquiries, please contact Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions about the cleanup work schedule or on-site cleanup activities, please call Mr. Gordon Getchel, AUHSD Director of Facilities and Operations, at (805) 922-4573 ext. 4701.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Ms. Maya Akula at (818) 551-2917

JFK HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS MAP SHOWING ARSENIC REMOVAL LOCATION



COMMENT FORM

If you have any comments concerning the John F. Kennedy High School Draft Removal Action Workplan, please fill out the information below and mail by April 21, 2004 in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you did not receive a return envelope, please mail your comments to: Ms. Stephanie Feliciano, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630. Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments when the Final Removal Action Workplan is issued.

Name (optional) _____

Organization (optional) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ Fax (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Comments (attach additional pages if needed) _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[Note: Your comments will be considered public records for this site and, if requested, may be subject to release.]